

# MY REPRESENTATIVES!

**M**ake your voice heard.

Find out who represents you in government:

## STATE

To find out who represents you in the California State Assembly and Senate, go to [www.assembly.ca.gov](http://www.assembly.ca.gov) – click on “Find My District.”

## NATIONAL

Find out who represents you in the United States Congress and House of Representatives at [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) – enter your zip code.

## CALIFORNIA STATE WEBSITES

Use this site as a gateway to state departments and agencies.

[www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)

### California Legislative Information

On this site you can look up bill information, legislative publications and California law.

[www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)

### Secretary of State

Learn how to register to vote and about the election process at [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

## ISSUES & VOTER INFORMATION

### Youth Vote

View information on elections, state officials, and statistics on youth voting at [www.youthvote.org](http://www.youthvote.org).

### Rock the Vote

Learn about issues that affect youth

and register to vote at [www.rockthevote.org](http://www.rockthevote.org).

### Declare Yourself

Register to vote, find absentee ballot forms, polling places, view candidate bios and public service announcements.

[www.declareyourself.com](http://www.declareyourself.com)

### NCLR

NCLR is the largest Latino Civil Rights and advocacy organization in the United States. The website provides Latino youth information on the steps they can take to get involved in the political process.

[www.nclr.org](http://www.nclr.org)

### NCBCP

The National Coalition On Black Civic Participation (Black Youth Vote) is a youth led organization that seeks to empower Black youth by educating them about the political process and training them to identify issues and influence public policy through participation.

[www.bigvote.org](http://www.bigvote.org)

### APIAVOTE

Encourages and promotes civic participation of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the electoral and public policy processes at the national, state and local levels.

[www.apiavote.org/youthvote](http://www.apiavote.org/youthvote)

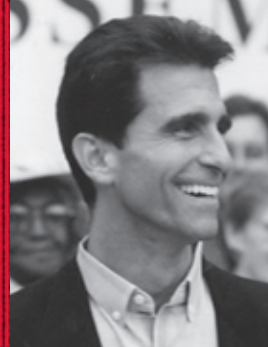
### NYAC

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition is a national organization dedicated to empowering and supporting young people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning (LGBTQ).

[www.nyacyouth.org](http://www.nyacyouth.org)

### My Rights

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/myrights/>



## MARK LENO

Assemblyman, 13th District

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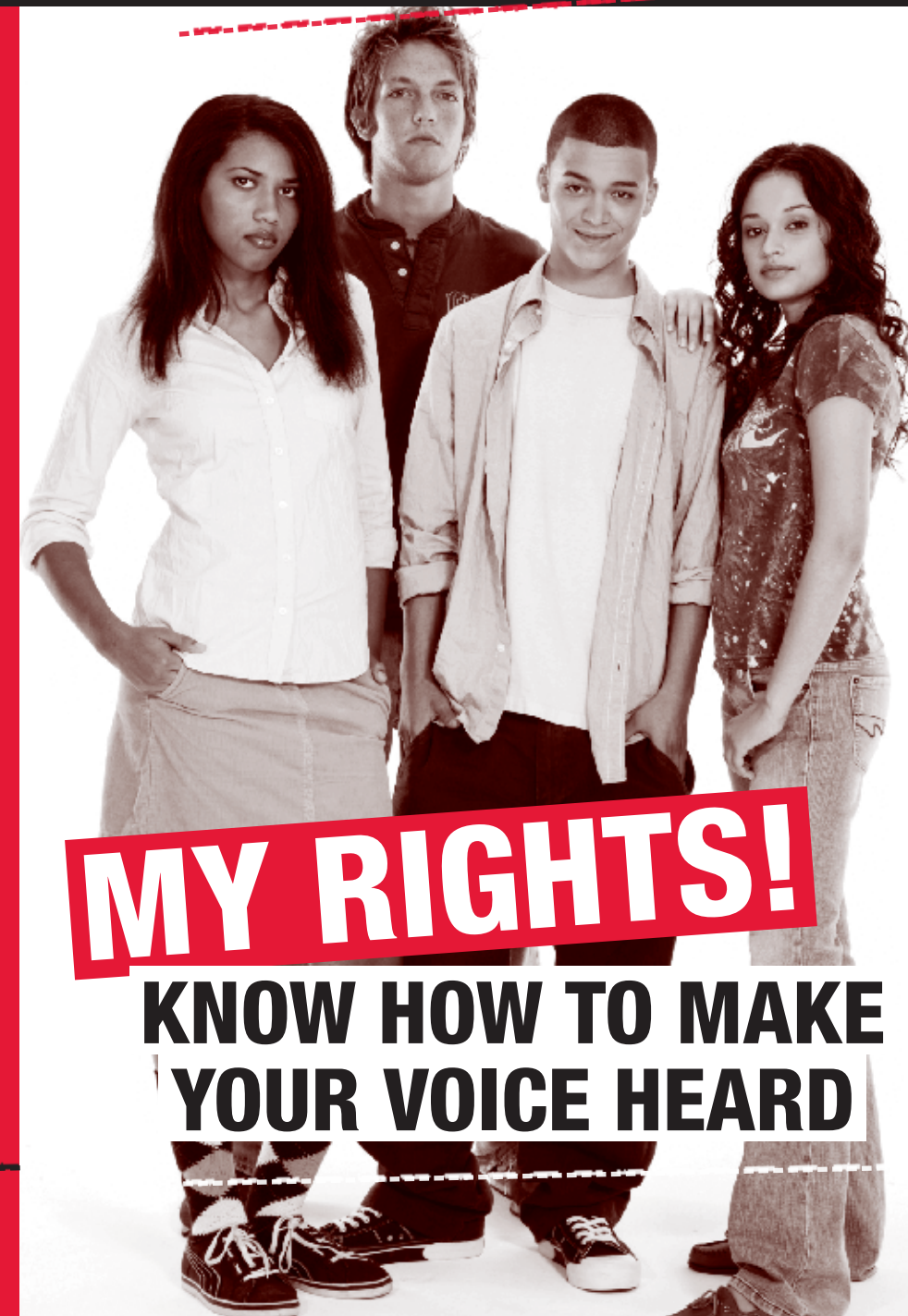
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[www.assembly.ca.gov/leno](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/leno)



# MY RIGHTS!

## KNOW HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD



**MARK LENO**

Assemblyman, 13th District

Dear Friend,

As a young member of the community, you may wonder what you can do to make a difference. You may even wonder what one person can do. The truth is, if you are willing to get involved, you can make a difference.

The first step is to get involved in the process. If you are old enough, register to vote and then vote on Election Day. Attend public forums, learn about current issues, use your voice to speak out and volunteer in your community.

Please read this brochure to learn more about other ways you can get involved in the political process. If you would like to know more, please contact my office at (415) 557-3013 or visit my website at [www.assembly.ca.gov/Leno](http://www.assembly.ca.gov/Leno).

Thank you,

*Mark Leno*

Mark Leno, Assemblyman  
13th Assembly District

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# MY VOICE!

You can get involved in the political process in several ways. Here are a few of the most common ways to use your voice and influence the elected officials that represent you:

## WRITE YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

**1.**

First, determine what you want to accomplish by writing a letter to an elected official. Do you want to:

- Ask them to support or oppose a bill or law?
- Get help obtaining services from a governmental agency?
- Learn their position on a particular issue?

## TIPS FOR YOUR LETTER/E-MAIL:

- Be informed about the issue and the position of the official. Explain how the issue would affect you, your family or community;
- Be specific and provide as much information as possible about the issue and if you have a proposed solution, state it;
- Stick to the point, as concise

messages help them to serve all constituents as quickly and efficiently as possible;

- Include your first and last name and your full mailing address; a letter cannot be answered if there is no return address;
- Use your own words. A thoughtful, factual, personal letter carries more weight than a form letter or petition.



## WRITE TO THE NEWSPAPER

**2.**

A *Letter to the Editor* is a great way to speak out on a public issue:

- Be sure to get to the point within the first paragraph. A letter to the editor should be no more than 200 words;
- Write about



what you know; your letter should state your expertise or personal experience with the issue;

- Newspaper editors are more likely to publish your letter if you refer to an issue currently in the news;
- Newspapers get numerous submissions for print. The best way to get your letter published is to call the paper and ask for the person who reviews letters.

## ATTEND MEETINGS OR HEARINGS

**3.**

Governmental bodies are required to meet and vote in public. By attending meetings you will become better informed about local and state activities. You will often be able to voice your opinion at these meetings. Call ahead or go online to find out the public agency's meeting date and agenda.

## APPLY FOR AN APPOINTMENT

**4.**

Apply for an appointment to local, state or national boards or commissions.

Board members and commissioners are appointed by elected officials. There are thousands of appointed positions at all levels of government, both paid and volunteer that need qualified applicants. A good way to start looking for these positions is to explore the issues you care about. To find out more, contact your local, state or national elected officials.

